

T-521

MINNIE G. (Hooper Island draketail)
St. Michaels, Maryland

MINNIE G. is a 36' long motorized workboat with a distinctive "torpedo" or "draketail" stern--a vessel type known as a Hooper Island boat. Launched c. 1922 at Hoopersville, Hooper Island, she is believed to be a product of the well-known boatbuilder Bronza Parks. Built of wood and with a considerable amount of reverse rake to her stern, the vessel has a beam of 6'8" and a depth of 2'6". She is on display at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. MINNIE G. is significant as being one of the few surviving examples of a distinctively regional Chesapeake vessel type known as a Hooper Island boat which was the first type of power workboat developed in the Bay region. The vessel is also important as being a probably product of the well-known boatbuilder Bronza Parks.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-521

Magi No. 2105215733

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MINNIE G.

and/or common Hooper's Island "draketail" CBMM 74-45-1

2. Location

street & number Mill Street not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional districtstate Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

street & number telephone no.: 745-2916

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code Maryland 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-521

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This vessel is a motorized deadrise workboat with a distinctive "torpedo" or "draketail" stern, of a type built and used around Hooper Island for trotline crabbing and oyster tonging. She is built of wood and measures 36' long overall. There is a considerable amount of reverse rake to her stern, which can be discerned in the boat's measurements of 32'2" length on deck increasing to 33'3" at the waterline. Her beam is 6'8" and she draws 2'6". Launched c. 1922 at Hoopersville, Hooper Island, Dorchester County, the boat is believed to be a product of the well-known boatbuilder Bronza Parks. She is on display at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum as an example of the distinctive regional type known as a "Hooper's Island draketail" or "ducktail," a few of which still work in Chesapeake waters.

The boat is Bay-built using cross-planked construction in a herringbone pattern. The keel is fir, frames ash, and planks pine, with metal fastenings. Staving was used at the bow where the single stem piece is slightly curved and set at a raking angle. There is a little flare to the bows. The hard chine fairs into the bow about 3' from the stem. There is a plank keel in four parts, with the deepest part aft where it deepens from 6" to a 16" skeg at the propellor. The fantail stern is constructed using vertical planking, with the planks set on a diagonal to towards the bow. The stern is rounded with a reverse rake. The rudder, of metal and 16 1/2" long by 13 1/2" deep, is mounted inboard, on a pipe shaft set about 2 feet from the after-end of the torpedo stern. It is controlled by two steering cables led to the end of an 18"-long "tiller", connected to a steering lever on the starboard coaming forward.

The vessel is half-decked, with a foredeck and afterdeck. Tapering washboards with a maximum width of 1 foot amidships are formed of single wide planks scarfed together at the ends. There is an enclosed cuddy measuring 7' long on the foredeck; it is topped with a small "doghouse", with three windows and full-length closing doors aft, to provide shelter. The cuddy is fitted with a combination seat and storage box. On the foredeck are a sampson post and wooden fairleads. The afterdeck, beneath which is a gasoline tank, is equipped with cleats and chocks.

The vessel was powered by a 120-horsepower, 6-cylinder gasoline engine, converted from a 1954 Chevrolet automobile engine with Flagship marine gear. The engine has been removed from its housing in the stern--a box measuring 4' long on deck and 28" wide. The engine driveshaft is cased in a metal pipe run along the starboard side of the keel.

The finish is white paint with green-painted rubbing strakes. The name MINNIE G. is displayed in large plastic screw-on letters mounted on both sides of the bow. There is copper bottom paint below the waterline and ice sheathing along the chine, except at the stern. The inside planking and floorboards are painted gray. The boat has undergone some restoration by the Museum. Replacements include the inner and outer stem, part of the starboard chine log, bow planking, sampson post, and some of the frames. Extensive restoration was done by the owner before the boat was donated to the Museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-521

Marion V, Brewington, Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History (Cambridge, Md: Cornell Press, 1953

Thomas Gillmer, Working Watercraft: A Survey of Surviving Local Boats of America and Europe (Camden, Maine: International Marine Publishing Co., 1972)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>						
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>						
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>						
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D	<input type="text"/>						
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E	<input type="text"/>						
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F	<input type="text"/>						
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G	<input type="text"/>						
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H	<input type="text"/>						
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Witty/ M.E. Hayward

organization Maryland Historical Society date 5/84

street & number 201 W. Monument St. telephone 685-3750

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



MINNIE G

369-42A

T-521

MINNIE G.
St. Michaels, Md

bow

M. C. Wootton 5/84



369-4A

T-521

MINNIE G.
St. Michaels, Md

stern

M. C. Wootton 5/84